

MINUTES of a MEETING of the
CHAIRMAN'S COMMITTEE of the
SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION
in the Wheel Inn Motor Hotel,
SCONE at 11.30 a.m. on Thursday,
7th JULY, 1988.

PRESENT:

Messrs. J.H. Barr, G.S. Brass, J.G.H. Fenton, R.D. Hunter, D.H. Lindsay and J.O. Robertson, with D. Blackmore (Assistant Secretary) in attendance.

The President, Mr. G.S. Brass, Chaired the meeting.

APOLOGIES:

Mr. Hunter (Secretary) submitted apologies for absence received from Messrs. J.R. McArthur, K.A. McKenzie and J.M. Swinton.

MINUTES:

A Report on the Committee's meeting in Scone on 20th November, 1987 had been copied to each Committee Member. Messrs. Barr and Robertson pointed out that they had not received notification of that meeting and had thus not been present or able to submit apologies for their absence. Subject to this correction the Report was approved and signed to this effect by the Chairman.

MATTERS
ARISING:

The Report having been devoted to Budget Estimates and since overtaken by events to be reported in today's meeting, the Committee moved to the next Item on the Agenda.

MEMBERSHIP/
SUBSCRIPTION
CHANGES:

The Committee considered a pre-copied analysis of Membership and tonnage bracket changes that had occurred during collection of 1988 Annual Membership Subscriptions. Against projected total subscriptions from 105 Members of £10,135, five Members had resigned, one Member had gone into liquidation, three Members had been suspended and one new Member had been enrolled. Fourteen upward and seven downward tonnage-bracket changes had also occurred. In net terms as shown, the Membership Roll had been reduced to 97 and Subscriptions had been reduced by £603 to £9,532 received. Mr. Blackmore added that since the analysis had been prepared, one of the suspended Members had now paid the subscription and the totals shown required amendment in this respect. The Committee noted this position and in reply to Mr. Lindsay, it was explained this included both Members involved in a recent merger, next year's effect of which is not yet known.

INTERIM
REPORT:

In an item by item consideration of a previously copied Interim Association Account for the eight-month period to 1st July, 1988 the Committee noted that Expenses of Meetings, General Administration, Photocopying, Postages and telephones were all likely to exceed budgetted estimates by a total of about £300. On the other hand Travelling Expenses and Exceptional Item were likely to have been over-estimated by perhaps £500. Overall, therefore, it was agreed the likely full-year outcome was not cause for concern and would still be within acceptable limits. Mr. Blackmore added that the Association's total tax liability for the year to 31st October, 1987 agreed with the Inland Revenue at £3.07, was equal to only three pence per Member.

INVESTMENTS
REVIEW:

The Committee took note of a pre-copied Memo of a telephoned enquiry to the Association's Stockbrokers, who recommend no changes be made to the Association's stockholdings at the present time but, should interest rates increase much in the future, a further review should then take place.

DEPUTY/

DEPUTY
VICE
PRESIDENT:

The Chairman reported no progress had been made in the appointment of a Deputy Vice President of the Association. The Committee's wide-ranging discussion of relevant factors took account of the changing composition of Council (six of the present eighteen members of which are past Presidents); the burden of Council membership and Office on Members' own slimmed-down management structures; the loss of independence resulting from mergers and take-overs; apparent reluctance of larger organisations to seek representation on Council; possible resultant reduction of the Association's representational credibility and a general dearth of nominations for election. It was eventually agreed that any "lobbying" for Nominations should be informally conducted and that further discussion to this end should be carried forward to the wider forum of this afternoon's meeting of Council.

The meeting was then concluded.